

Rockingham County Republican Party

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street, NW Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

As the former Assistant Legal Counsel for the North Carolina Republican Party, I have a strong interest in how our legal system interacts with business. While many people have various opinions on the merits of the Microsoft case, most reasonable people can agree that if both the Justice Department and Microsoft reached a settlement, then it's time to put the litigation behind us.


It is for this reason that I call on Judge Kollar Kotelly to approve the settlement between Microsoft and the federal government. It is important that we do not interfere with it at business unnecessarily at any level of government, state or federal. That is why since 1999, I have been greatly troubled by the federal government's attempt to bring about unprecedented harsh penalties against Microsoft.

That's why, as a lawyer, I felt encouraged when I read of the landmark settlement. We've got to minimize further consumer harm by freeing up Microsoft to be innovative, creative and cost-effective. I know that I rely on Microsoft computer operating systems on a regular basis, and I believe that they are the highest quality products available. These products will only improve with the closure of this legal matter.

Please let Judge Kollar-Kotelly that I strongly support the settlement, and I hope this balance of this proceeding will end soon. In that fashion, Microsoft can return to the business of innovation and developing new products. Also, government attorneys can get back to more pressing cases.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,


Matthew W. Smith
Vice Chairman

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